WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1.   A keypad for entering letters, comprising:
      an array of keys with each key being assigned to at least one letter of an alphabetical system based on the frequency of occurrence of the least one letter in a typical body of written work, wherein the alphabetical system comprises at least one most-frequently-occurring letter that is entered by more than one key activation associated with the same key and at least one less-frequently-occurring letter that is entered by at least one key activation associated with each of at least two different keys.

2.   The key-pad of claim 1, wherein each key is a soft-keys presented to a user on a display device in accordance with a program executed on a device processor.

3.   The keypad of claim 1, wherein the more than one key activation at the same key requires at least one touching and at least one un-touching of a touch-sensitive surface at substantially the same location, and wherein the at least one key activation at each of at least two different keys requires touching the touch-sensitive surface at a first location and un-touching the touch sensitive surface at a second location that is different from the first location.

4.   The keypad of claim 1, wherein one or more letters are assigned to each key in accordance with a position array having defined position elements.

5.   The keypad of claim 4, wherein the position elements include a central position and at least one peripheral position that point to an adjacent key.

6.   The keypad of claim 5, wherein a most-frequently-occurring letter is assigned to the central position and a less-frequently-occurring letter is assigned to the peripheral position.

7.   The keypad of claim 6, wherein a less-frequently-occurring letter is entered by a two-key sequence that requires first activating a key assigned to the less-frequently-occurring letter and then activating the key to which the position element of the less-frequently-occurring letter points to.

8.   The keypad of claim 7, wherein one or more non-letter symbols or characters are assigned to each key in accordance with position elements of the position array, wherein a

- 15 -

non-letter symbol or character is entered by a two-key sequence that requires first activating the key assigned to a non-letter symbol or character and then activating the key to which the position element of the non-letter symbol or character points to.

9.   The keypad of claim 1, wherein a wrap-around extension points to a non-adjacent key, if a peripheral position points to no adjacent key.

10.   The keypad of claim 1, wherein a key activation includes touching of substantially the same or different locations of a surface or un-touching of substantially the same or different locations of the surface.

11.   A keypad system comprising:

(a)   an array of keys with each key being assigned to at least one letter in an alphabetical system;

(b)   a detector that detects activation at a key; and

(c)   a signal generator that generates a character signal corresponding to a selected letter in accordance with a key sequence, wherein for a most-frequently-occurring letter, the key sequence requires two key activations at the same key, and for a less-frequently-occurring letter the key sequence requires key activation at two different keys.

12.   The keypad system of claim 11, wherein most-frequently-occurring letters are assigned, at most, to each one of all of the keys within the key array, and less-frequently-occurring letters are assigned in accordance with at least one element of a position array.

13.   The keypad system of claim 12, wherein at least one least-frequently-occurring letter is assigned in accordance with at least one element of the position array.

14.   The keypad system of claim 13, wherein the array of keys comprises M rows and N columns and the number of letters in the alphabetical system is equal to L.

15.   The keypad system of claim 14, wherein M=N=3 and L=26.

- 16 -

16.   The keypad system of claim 14, wherein M=4 and N=3, and wherein one of the keys that is not assigned to a letter is used for selecting an alphanumeric operating mode of the keypad system.

17.   The keypad of claim 11, wherein each key is a soft-keys presented to a user on a display device in accordance with a program executed on a device processor.

18.   The keypad system of claim 11, wherein a key activation includes touching of substantially the same or different locations of a surface or un-touching of substantially the same or different locations of the surface.

19.   An information entry method for a keypad, comprising:

        (a)   determining the frequency of occurrences of letters in a typical body of written work that is based on an alphabetical system;

        (b)   assigning letters to an array of keys based on the frequency of occurrence of the letter;

        (c)   activating at least one of the keys in accordance with a key sequence that corresponds to a selected letter, wherein for a most-frequently-occurring letter, the key sequence requires multiple activation of the same key, and for a less-frequently-occurring letter the key sequence requires activation of two different keys; and

        (d)   generating a character signal corresponding to the selected letter in response to the key sequence.

20.   The method of claim 19, wherein a key activation includes touching of substantially the same or different locations of a surface or un-touching of substantially the same or different locations of the surface.

21   The method claim 19, wherein each key is a soft-keys presented to a user on a display device in accordance with a program executed on a device processor.

22. A keypad for entering english letters, comprising:

    (a)   an array of nine keys numbered key 1 through key 9, wherein

        key 1 is assigned to letter A;

        key 2 is assigned to letter N;

        key 3 is assigned to letter I;

        key 4 is assigned to letter H;

        key 5 is assigned to letter O;

        key 6 is assigned to letter R;

        key 7 is assigned to letter T;

        key 8 is assigned to letter E; and

        key 9 is assigned to letter S.

23. The keypad of claim 19, wherein letters V, L, X, K, M, Y, W, and F are further assigned to keys 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, respectively.

24. The keypad of claim 19, wherein letters Q, U, P, C, B, G, D, and J are further assigned to key 5.

25. A keypad for entering data symbols, comprising:

an array of keys having at least one key assigned to a data symbol in accordance with a position array that has defined position elements, including at least one peripheral position that point to a non-adjacent key, wherein at least one data symbol is entered by key activation of a key and a non-adjacent key that is pointed to by a peripheral position of the key.

26. The keypad of claim 25, wherein the non-adjacent key is a key that is specified by a wrap-around position of the array of keys.

27. The method claim 25, wherein each key is a soft-keys presented to a user on a display device in accordance with a program executed on a device processor.

- 18 -

28.   The method of claim 25, wherein a key activation includes touching of substantially the same or different locations of a surface or un-touching of substantially the same or different locations of the surface.